



# Committee on Homeland Security

Democrats

**Bennie G. Thompson, Ranking  
Member**

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## CONGRESSMAN THOMPSON QUESTIONS KEY DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL OVER MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT

**April 20, 2005, Washington, DC** — Congressman Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS), Ranking Member of the House Committee on Homeland Security, made the following statement during the Subcommittee on Management, Integration, and Oversight on management and structural challenges within the Department of Homeland Security:

**“As the Department enters its third year of existence and Secretary Chertoff undertakes his top-down review, this Committee has a vital role to play in ensuring accountability from the highest levels of the Department. Time and again, senior staff at the Department has failed to act upon or seriously address major security gaps and structural problems brought to light by former Inspector General Ervin, GAO, and others.”**

During the hearing, Congressman Thompson questioned former Inspector General Clark Kent Ervin on the serious deficiencies in Transportation Security Administration’s (TSA) screening capabilities and the criteria TSA uses to hire contractors for checkpoint screening. Thompson stated, **“When it comes to homeland security, there’s no such thing as benign neglect. If the Department continues to ignore these serious gaps, the potential damage to our nation is far too grave to consider. If there is one message that should be taken away from this hearing it is, the Department is not getting the job of protecting America’s security.”**

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